

DEC 17 2004

Docket No.: 16159/133001; P2287
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Amit Gupta, et al.**Conf. No.: 4164****Application No.: 08/868,972****Art Unit: 2664****Filed: June 4, 1997****Examiner: B. H. Pham**

**For: TECHNIQUES FOR IMPROVING VIRTUAL
CHANNEL MANAGEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE IN A NETWORK
ENVIRONMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2004, please reconsider this application in view of the following.